

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 4103

DEPARTMENT PASS USDEL USOASGA GRENADA

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PORG, OAS, EC, CI, SHUM
SUBJECT: OASGA HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION

REF: QUITO 4080

1. FOREIGN MINISTER AYALA CALLED ME THIS AFTERNOON IN RESPONSE TO YESTERDAY'S DEMARCHE ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION (REFTEL). AYALA SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT FIRST COMMITTEE HAD APPOINTED A WORKING GROUP ON DRAFT RESOLUTION. ALTHOUGH ECUADOR WAS NOT A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP, HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO AMB. LOERO TO FOLLOW THE WORK CLOSELY. AYALA INDICATED THAT LEORO HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED GOE POINT OF VIEW ABOUT ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE DRAFT. AYALA STATED THAT ECUADOR SOUGHT AN ELECTRIC APPROACH IN THE DRAFT WHICH WOULD AVOID A SPLIT BEWTWEEN THE SOUTHERN CONE AND US GROUP. HE OBSERVED THAT THE US SPONSORED DRAFT AS IT STANDS NOW SEEMS ACCEPTABLE EXCEPT FOR PARAGRAPH C REGARDING VISITS. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE LANGUAGE MIGHT HAVE TO BE TONED DOWN TO OBTAIN EUCADOREAN BACKING. ON THE OTHER HAND , ECUADOR HAD NO WISH TO UNDERMINE THE IAHRC, AND INDEED WISHED TO STRENGTHEN IT.

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2. FOLLOWING MY DEMARCHE YESTERDAY, POLCOUNSELOR AND NAVATT MADE PARALLEL APPROACH ON ADMIRAL RENAN OLMEDO, CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES JOINT COMMAND, WHO HAS TAKEN A LIVELY INTEREST IN GOE'S MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY, ESPECIALLY WHERE IT MIGHT AFFECT ECUADORS SECURITY

INTEREST. DURING HIS PRESENTATION, POLCOUNSELOR POINTED OUT, INTER ALIA, THAT OASGA HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION WAS EMERGING JUST WHEN SPECIFIC GOE SECURITY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS WERE BEING CONSIDERED FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR NEW ARMS TRANSFER POLICY. ALTHOUGH ECUADOR'S PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA WAS ONLY ONE OF THE FACETS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP, POLCOUNSELOR NOTED THAT HE KNEW FROM PAST CONVERSATIONS WITH OLMEDO THAT HE WAS AWARE OF ITS CONTRIBUTION TO A FAVORABLE BILATERAL ATMOSPHERE. OLMEDO ACKNOWLEDGED THIS.

OLMEDO REPLIED THAT ECUADOR WISHED TO GIVE THE US ITS FULL SUPPORT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD BECAUSE IT BELIEVED THAT THE US APPROACH WAS FUNDAMENTALLY SOUND. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, ECUADOR HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY CHILE, WHICH WERE VITAL TO HIS COUNTRY'S SECURITY IN FACE OF THE PERUVIAN ARMS BUILD-UP. NONETHELESS, HE SAID, ECUADOR WOULD HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTY IN PUTTING THESE CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES EXCEPT FOR

ONE PRESSING PROBLEM: THERE WOULD BE A "HIGH LEVEL" VISIT TO CHILE (HE HINTED THAT SUPREME COUNCIL PRESIDENT POVEDA HIMSELF WOULD BE THE VISITOR) AND ECUADOR WANTED TO DO NOTHING WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SUCCESS OF THAT VISIT.

3. POLCOUNSELOR ASSURED OLMEDO THAT US HAD NO WISH TO

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SINGLE OUT CHILE OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY FOR CONDEMNATION IN THE RESOLUTION. OUR BASIC GOAL WAS TO STRENGTHEN THE IAHRC. OLMEDO REPEATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE US WITHOUT HARMING THE ECUADOR-CHILE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP ON THE EVE OF THE TRIP. AT THAT POINT, OLMEDO TELEPHONED POVEDA (WHO WAS ILL IN BED) AND ASKED TO SEE HIM IN 15 MINUTES CONCERNING THE PROBLEM. INSTEAD, POVEDA REQUESTED HIM TO SEE HIM EARLY THE NEXT MORNING.

4. COMMENT: ECUADOR SEEMS TO BE FACED WITH A DILEMMA IN BALANCING OUT ITS PRINCIPLES, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US AND CHILE. AS AYALAS UNCERTAIN REPLY INDICATES, GOE, AFTER WRESTLING WITH PROBLEM ALL DAY AND TALKING TO GRENADA, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, AS AYALA ALSO INDICATED, ECUADOR, WHILE NOT WILLING TO SUPPORT ALL OF CURRENT WORKING DRAFT, SEEMS TO BE LEANING STRONGLY TOWARD A POSITION WHICH WOULD ENDORSE A FORTIFIED IAHRC.

5. PLEASE PROTECT FACT THAT WE MADE A BACK-DOOR APPROACH TO MILITARY ON THIS PROBLEM.

BLOOMFIELD

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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